From:

Madden, Ken

To:

'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'

Date:

11/16/01 5:23pm

**Subject:** 

Microsoft Antitrust Solutions

Greetings.

I just wanted to write to say that I agree with the current US Government/DOJ solution-set to the Microsoft Antitrust allegations.

As a Network Administrator in a mid-sized company (US-owned), I feel that it is Microsoft's right to innovate their product with the addition of browsers and add-ons and like programs - built into the OS. Even Microsoft's competitors wish to be able to innovate their products without government intervention.

Each of the companies that instigated the DOJ investigation and suit had the opportunity and the will in the past to be monopolies - Novell was a virtual monopoly in the NOS market, Netscape was a Monopoly in the browser market. Each lost market share due to poor market positioning - Novell insisted that it be deployed and maintained by expensive Novell - trained engineers, Netscape was too unstable to be a pleasing browser experience. The computing consumer has benefited immensely from the easy availability of Microsoft networking and Internet Explorer stability.

The question remains, however; Was Microsoft engaged in practices that were 'beyond the pale' in their agreements with other companies? That answer is clearly 'Yes' and therefore sanctions should clearly be brought against Microsoft for their behavior in this regard.

However, splitting up the company and a forced-reveal of the crown jewels of their business - their source code - is also clearly beyond the mandate of proper sanctions for these actions.

Computing in the world has clearly benefited by having a world software leader, who is at the least benevolent, and at most paranoid. Sometimes leaders need to be brought back into line, but they don't necessarily need to be deposed.

Ken Madden Network Administrator VECO Canada (Engineering) Ltd